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SOURCE Czechoslovak newspapers as indicated. (Information requested.)

CZECHOSLOVAK AGRICULTURE AND FOREST PRODUCTION EXPANDS

FRUITGROWING -- Lidova Demokracie, No 8, 11 Jan 49

The following table gives data on number of fruit trees, the total 1948 harvest, and average yield per tree.

Type	No of Trees	1948 Harvest (in quintals)	Yield per Tree (in kg)
Apple	13,005,091	2,662,135	20.5
Pear	2,096,865	935,736	18.4
Cherry (<i>Prunus cerasus</i>)	4,826,510	592,226	12.3
Cherry (<i>Cerasus vulgaris</i>)	1,088,794	102,980	3.5
Plum (<i>Prunus domestica</i>)	10,633,551	1,363,020	12.8
Plum (<i>Prunus</i>)	3,221,336	457,359	14.2
Peach	274,726	17,987	6.5
Apricot	939,435	79,388	8.5
Walnut	2,128,315	169,621	15.0
Total trees	40,214,623		
Red currant	7,741,797	147,198	1.9
Gooseberry,	4,028,887	78,474	1.9
Total bushes	11,770,684		

The increase of fruit trees in the Czech Provinces during 1948 amounted to 23 percent. Approximately 9,700 quintals of professionally cultivated strawberries and 5,900 quintals of raspberries were harvested. The harvest of bilberries and wild raspberries was not investigated.

CROP-PURCHASE PROGRAM PLANNED -- Lidova Demokracie, No 36, 12 Feb 49

According to an announcement issued on 8 February by the Ministry of Food, plans are being prepared for a controlled crop purchase program for vegetables.

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peppers, wine grapes, and aromatic and medicinal plants. Quotas for individual farmers will be delivered by 27 February 1949.

These plans will provide a basis for the signing by individual farmers of contracts under which they agree to produce specified quantities of specified products. Those who do not sign will be assigned quotas by the okres People's Council in cooperation with the local People's Council.

State farms will be assigned plans, but not through the Ministry of Food.

TOTAL GRAIN PURCHASES -- Pravia, No 22, 27 Jan 49

From 1 July 1948 to 15 January 1949 the following numbers of carloads of grain had been purchased in the entire republic: wheat, 54,365; rye, 57,522; barley, 26,178; oats, 7,453; maize, 3,785; rape, 320; poppy, 319; and mustard, 373.

It is interesting to compare the above figures with those for the same period of the preceding year. From 1 July 1947 to 17 January 1948, the following amounts were purchased (in carloads): wheat, 19,935; rye, 41,646; barley, 10,516; and oats, 2,412.

REQUIRED VEGETABLE CROPS -- Svobodne Slovo, No 28, 3 Feb 49

This year, vegetable growers are required not only to plant specified acreages in specified kinds of vegetables, but also to deliver specified amounts of produce. These requirements must be based on average local yields.

Average yields in kilograms per hectare are: celery 12,000; onions, 12,000; garlic, 3,000; asparagus, 2,000; late kohlrabi, 25,000; late carrots, 28,000; pickling cucumbers, 10,000; salad greens, 20,000; parsley, 15,000; and cauliflower, 25,000 heads.

NUMBER OF PIGS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- Rude Pravo, No 18, 22 Jan 49

As of 10 January 1949 there were 112,649 pigs at fattening centers in Bohemia and 34,245 in Slovakia; the total for Czechoslovakia was 146,845 (sic). By the end of January, 150,000 pigs will be sent to these centers. This is the first half of the quantity to be fattened this year; therefore, it may be assumed that this year's assignment will be fulfilled. By 31 December 1,024 fattened pigs had already been delivered for public supply.

AGRICULTURE MECHANIZATION SPEEDED IN SLOVAKIA -- Rude Pravo, No 19, 23 Jan 49

There are 61 state MTSs in Slovakia with 1,037 tractors, 229 binders, and 24 combines. This year 890 tractors and 100 combines will be added.

The Ministry of Agriculture trained 1,200 tractor operators last year; an additional 2,000 will be trained this year. The state MTSs now employ 1,400, and their number will be increased 100 percent. A repair shop for agricultural machines will be established in each okres. Up to February 1948 there were only 120 machinery cooperatives in Slovakia, but there are now 760, and 500 additional cooperatives will be founded this year.

FOREST PRODUCTION INCREASES -- Rude Pravo, No 36, 12 Feb 49

Wood-cutting in the Rokucan forests is progressing well. Of the 7,900 loads prescribed for January, 5,039 were removed by truck, and the remainder by

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animal power. The February quota of 9,000 loads is expected to be fulfilled.

During February 4,000 liters of gasoline and 2,000 liters of oil have been allocated for the transport of wood.

STATE SAWMILLS MEET PLAN -- Svobodne Slovo, No 28, 3 Feb 49

The state sawmills met their 1948 plan by 112 percent, while the Czech provinces met their plan 125 percent. The December plan was fulfilled 439 percent in the Czech Provinces and 128 percent in Slovakia.

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